

Lessons From II John

Walking In Truth & Love

(II Jn 4-6)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of "Lessons From II John."
 - a. Last week we looked at the introductory material for this letter.
 - i. It is there that we noticed John writing to the elect lady and her children about the grace, mercy, and love that proceeds from the Father and the Son in the realm of "truth and love."
 - b. This week we will look at how John expands on this theme "truth and love."
 - i. John does this in two ways...
 1. He commends them for walking in truth.
 2. He exhorts them to love one another.
3. With this in mind let us examine our text for today.

I. Praises For Walking In Truth

- A. I rejoice greatly...
 1. This is because of either visiting or because of receiving a report from others concerning how some of the elect lady's children were walking in the truth.
 - i. This was a source of great joy for John much like we find with Gaius in **III Jn**.
 2. What about rejoicing in one obeying the gospel?
 - i. There is no doubt that joy and great joy comes when one obeys the gospel.
 - ii. As great as it is however there is always the possibility that one will not carry through with their initial obedience to Christ.
 - a. This can temper ones joy.
 - iii. However time lets us in and reveals that persons heart and dedication to God.
 - a. This is when one can truly rejoice knowing this one that obeyed God has dedicated themselves to God in their life and thus walk in truth.
 3. Thus what we find is a great source of joy can be found in the follow up of new converts.
- B. ...I have found some of your children...
 1. Unfortunately, John could not say all of her children.
 - i. This is a reminder that even the best of parents can have erring children.
 - a. Even though this lady was called the "elect lady" not all of her kids were faithful ie walking in truth.

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- ii. We see this in scripture from time to time.
 - a. Samuel and his kids.
 - 1. **I Sa 8:1-3** "When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. 2 The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. 3 Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice."¹
 - b. God with Israel.
 - 1. **Ek 16:1-15 READ**
- 2. Whose fault is it then if a child is not walking in truth?
 - i. Some would say it is always the parents fault and they go to **Pr 22:6** as a proof text.
 - a. **Pr 22:6** "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."
 - ii. Some would say it is always the child's fault and would go to **Ek 18:20** as proof text.
 - a. **Ek 18:20** "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer for the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."
 - iii. The spiritual outcome of children ultimately lies on the child.
 - a. Parents are to train their children in the training and admonition of the Lord.
 - 1. **Ep 6:4** "And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord." (NKJV)
 - 2. The proverb is just that a proverb which means likely outcome. It is not a guarantee, and we can know this for two reasons.
 - i. First everyone has freedom of choice and if **Pr 22:6** was a guarantee then this would not be the case.
 - ii. Second God is the perfect parent and yet not all of His children stayed faithful.
 - b. Children are to learn and be obedient to God whether their parents teach them or not.
 - 1. **Ek 18:20**
 - iv. Thus what we find is that parents have a great responsibility but even if they do everything right their child can choose to disobey God if they so desire.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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- C. ...walking in truth, as we have received commandment from the father.
 - 1. This once again points out that walking in truth means walking in God's Word.
 - i. Everything we do is governed by God's authority.
 - a. **Co 3:17** "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."
 - ii. Is this conservatism, or legalism, yes!!! Why would anyone not want to be both conservative and legal with God's Word which by the way means we love God.
 - a. **I Jn 5:3** "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome."
 - b. **Jn 14:15** "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
 - c. **Jn 15:14** "You are my friends if you do what I command you."
 - iii. Brethren let it be said of us that we are conservative (**II Ti 2:15**) with God's Word and that we stand up with the legalities of God's Word (**Jn 4:23-24**).

II. Exhortation To Love One Another

- A. This should not be a surprise
 - 1. "...an emphasis on walking in truth without an equal emphasis on loving one another can easily develop a harsh, impatient, and insensitive disposition towards others, just as knowledge without love produces arrogance...Therefore it should not surprise us to find John following his commendation for walking in truth with an exhortation to love one another."
- B. "And now I plead with you lady..."
 - 1. Notice the "plead" which suggest that what is about to be said is to be taken very seriously.
 - i. As we saw in I John, John takes loving one another very seriously.
- C. "Not as though I wrote a new commandment..."
 - 1. The commandment is not a new one.
 - i. It is not original with John.
 - a. It came from Jesus.
 - 1. **Jn 15:17** "These things I command you, so that you will love one another."
 - ii. In fact it is something they have known from the beginning of their Christian experience.
 - a. **I Jn 2:7** "Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard."
 - b. **I Jn 3:11** "For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."

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- D. "That we love one another"
 - 1. This commandment to love one another that they have heard from the beginning has a standard that must be remembered.
 - i. **Jn 13:34** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: **just as I have loved you**, you also are to love one another." (emphasis mine)
- E. "This is love, that we walk according to his commandments..."
 - 1. Here we learn what best demonstrates that we truly love one another.
 - i. When I keep the commandments of God, will truly love my brethren.
 - 2. I can claim brotherly love all day long but unless I keep His commandments my claim is meaningless.
- F. "This is the commandment...you should walk in it"
 - 1. John simply here is reinforcing that which he has been writing.
 - 2. Why is John repeating what he has already written...
 - i. Because we need it.
 - 3. Someone once said the three "R's" of learning are "repetition, repetition, repetition."

CONCLUSION

- 1. With joy one can see in his writing John...
 - a. Praises the elect lady and her children for walking in truth.
 - b. Exhorts them to love one another.
- 2. There can be a tendency to do one without the other.
 - a. To hold to truth but to do so without love which produces harshness.
 - b. To love quickly but neglect the truth which produces compromise.
- 3. Question: Brethren do you walk in truth and love?
 - a. If not why not and correct it.
 - b. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
- 4. Invitation
 - a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
 - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
 - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
 - ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
 - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
 - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
 - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
 - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**